

**Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee Meeting**  
**Summary**  
**February 21, 2008**

**Members Present:** Barbara Henry, Jon Lourie, Bob Middleton, Abrielle Anderson and Pete Esker

**Members Absent:** Genny Hardesty, Renee Okon, Robb Parker, Mary Pat Spon, Carmen Camacho and Nancy Schwiesow

**Guest:** Jane Redicker, Lt. Burnett, John Landis, Rick Siebert, Jennifer Nettles

**Staff:** Gary Stith, Vicki Lockerman, and Susan Hoffmann

**Welcome/Introduction** – Barbara Henry called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

*Minutes for December 2007 where not approved because Committee did not have a quorum.*

**Chairs Report**

Barbara Henry announced that some in the community are trying to work on attracting the Crafty Bastards Craft Show in downtown D.C. between Columbia Heights and Adams Morgan. Last year the show attracted nearly 100,000 people and it is a one day event with ninety vendors. We are looking at having forty vendors somewhere around Pyramid Atlantic sometime in June. It is an extraordinarily edgy, state of the art craft fair that had 400 applicants for ninety spots so stay tune. The space at Pyramid Atlantic has already been mapped out to accommodate this event.

**Operating Budget Priorities**

Barbara Henry reported that:

- Jon Lourie and I will be meeting with the County Executive, Thursday, February 28 at 9:00 p.m. with the other Silver Spring Region Boards and Committees. Jon and Gary put a list together of the Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committees FY09 Operating Budget Priorities.
- Jon Lourie stated that they took the FY 07 information and updated it so there were some modifications. Items already accomplished or no longer applicable were removed and language was changed for things that were ongoing from words like increased to maintain given the current budget concerns. One item we removed was under redevelopment of downtown, there was a sentence about the Birchmere or Live Nation in regards to funding this is an Operating Budget Request that is really a Capital Budget item so it was removed and is open for discussion. My understanding is that previously in the Birchmere the monies to fund whatever was being done at the time was from the Operating Budget at that point and time last year.

Gary Stith responded last year in the Operating Budget the Economic Development Fund which is the only fund that does not terminate at the end of the fiscal year still has money there. This year it was put in the Capital Budget because this is the bi-annual round of review of the Capital Budget. The second \$2 million for that project is in the Capital Budget and this is a discussion of the Operating Budget.

Barbara Henry stated that given the timing it might be worth while to put in that we understand this is a Capital Budget item because leaving it off is a mistake and this becomes a public document so even if it is just parenthetically we understand that this is a Capital Budget item and we want them to understand how important this is to us.

Jon Lourie stated he has sent an e-mail to Debbie Spielberg, Chair, Silver Spring Citizens Advisory Board to see what items they have that may not be on our Committee list or things that we want to co-support and coordinate our voice on items. I know supporting the Silver Spring Town Center Inc. is one of those items, support for new retail development and retention of existing retail is important item on the Citizens Advisory Board but I have not heard back from her as yet.

Abrielle Anderson stated that under public safety the first bullet mentioning providing ongoing support of community Visions and Shepard's Table how do we support them now.

Gary Stith responded that the County has contracts with Shepard's Table and Community Visions which is actually Community Ministry's of Montgomery County for providing services to homeless people to include food services, training programs for jobs, counseling and various other programs for the homeless and it is a critical part of helping that population in downtown.

Barbara Henry stated that she would argue the order of these items given that we are the Urban District Advisory Committee the two bullets under redevelopment should be flipped over and retail development should go first and Town Center second.

Jon Lourie responded that the Silver Spring Town Center Inc. is sort of at a very pivotal point and thinks that the new retail development and retention of existing retail is an ongoing issue.

Barbara Henry stated she was not arguing Jon's statement but for the businesses that support this taxing district should be more important.

Jon Lourie stated what is critical right now for Silver Spring Town Center Inc. is that it is recognized as being contracted to provide programming for the building. This is a really critical issue before the County Council in this FY 09 so this is important as opposed to an ongoing issue and is really paramount in terms of going forward on how the Civic Building is programmed and it being a centerpiece for downtown Silver Spring.

Bob Middleton stated that since you only have two sections the order is not critical and looking at the language I would just say the second bullet even if it where the first bullet should be ramped up to support new retail development obviously we supported it and really want to move forward with this.

Jon Lourie asked if the Committee was going to be adding Live Nation as a third bullet under redevelopment of downtown.

Barbara Henry stated she thought they would add it parenthetically after continue the redevelopment downtown Silver Spring as a sentence.

Jon Lourie asked Gary Stith to explain how facilitating new retail development issues will be handled.

Gary Stith responded that there are programs that DED has for small businesses and some support through DHCA and SSRC by saying this is important the County Executive will look to make sure those kinds of programs in those departments are maintained. On February 4<sup>th</sup> we had a meeting with small businesses hosted by the County Executive and Councilmember Valerie Ervin along with representatives from DED, DHCA, DPWT, Park and Planning and our office giving a presentation on how different Departments can provide support to small businesses so this is already an initiative that the County Executive is interested in and will be across several Departments in terms of maintaining funds.

Barbara Henry stated she would go along with this in the subordinate position if the language is change too support by DED for the attraction of new retail and commercial development and retention of existing viable retail in downtown Silver Spring.

Jane Redicker stated that she attended the Fenton Village meeting but in conversations with retailers on the retention of existing retail, viable is an important word but even the extension of existing viable retail we are talking to members because of the economy and what is going on in this County they are struggling and this is very different than one year ago. Given this is a priority here because unlike a year ago you were seeing a lot of new folks coming in and you still see new folks but a lot of the folks who may have been here for a year should be doing okay but the market has turned and they are struggling.

John Landis stated for those that were at the meeting on February 4, a lot of the small businesses are not in the downtown corridor they are outside in South Silver Spring and East Silver Spring.

Barbara Henry stated that she is struggling with this because she hesitates to segment Silver Spring into us and them and I think downtown Silver Spring runs from the District line to Spring Street.

Jon Lourie stated he thought the confusion is that the project across the street is called Downtown Silver Spring so we could say within the Silver Spring Central Business District (CBD).

Barbara Henry stated she would also argue rearranging the order in the Public Safety, bullet three is one, bullet four is two, bullet 1 is four 2 is 3 and the only other thing is under Maintenance the first bullet could we say something about the transit center construction phase.

Gary Stith responded that the transit center construction is not an operating budget issue all the cost is coming out of the capital budget. The Committee needs to move this forward because it is going to the County Executive.

Pete Esker asked for an explanation of what enhance maintenance is in Montgomery Hills.

Gary Stith responded that we get \$15,500.00 dollars out of the PLD in Montgomery Hills and is part of the Regional Center Budget and we spend through our contract with Ruppert who does landscaping here in the Urban District.

Pete Esker stated than this is generated funds it's not enhanced because there is nothing coming from Rockville.

Gary Stith responded that nothing comes from Rockville

Rick Siebert stated that these are really enhanced services.

Gary Stith responded we are using monies from the PLD to provide services the PLD does not provide.

Rick Siebert stated without this money there would be only general funds to support those activities so the enhancement is to use the PLD funds to provide for what the general fund would not have been able to provide.

Bob Middleton stated that Barbara and Jon have the authority to represent our Committee before the County Executive. You were elected by the Committee to be our Leaders, been to our meetings and both know how we think, and who we are. In light of Gary Stith statement that time is of the essence we trust your good judgment.

Barbara Henry asked Gary Stith if follow-up had been done on the items listed on the last page of the minutes. We did four and someone asked about the parking spaces in the Galaxy project.

Rick Siebert responded that when the project was redone it was changed from a concrete hi-rise building to a stick building with considerably less number of units. They then reduce the amount of parking they were going to provide based on the reduced number of units while still maintaining the 200 space public garage and it is my understanding that the building will still meet the code required parking.

Gary Stith responded that he needed to follow-up on whether the Metro Union is trying to have drivers exempt from traffic laws and that he would write the letter of support for the Pedestrian Safety Initiative.

### **Police Update**

Lt. Burnett reported that:

- Over the last month we did experience a burglary problem in the George Sector and arrested two gentlemen from Dundalk, Maryland and another individual was locked up the end of January and burglaries have declined. We still have a burglary issue out in the Brigg Chaney, Burtonsville area and we are addressing these issues.
- We had a big issue last month with theft from autos and the suspect stole some cars from the garages and ended up being in pursuit with Virginia State Police and they were apprehended and it has pretty much stopped our theft and auto issues in the downtown Silver Spring parking garages. We have had three so far this month which is good and hope to keep it like that and obviously we have stepped up patrol in garages and the surrounding areas.
- Robberies have been minimal. We had a robbery today because of the demonstrators outside Discovery because the gentlemen was given away large sums of money and someone watched him give money away to one of the homeless and then he went down the block he hit him upside the head and robbed of about \$1,000.00 dollars. This person is paying the homeless about \$10.00 per hour to protest outside. He is also having essay contest to give away money and is drawing a lot of high school kids into the fold. He has been arrested for littering and disorderly conduct.

Bob Middleton stated that he appreciated the effort that the District is putting into dealing with the area around McDonald's near my community. We did have a suicide a few weeks back which was very distressing and apparently it is the Police's Department and the Press position that these kinds of things should not be spread.

Lt. Burnett responded that this is their policy and this was a suicide.

Bob Middleton stated he just wanted verification that this was suicide because there was nothing on the website and people reported the incident to the Associated Press and they would not cover it and I was concerned about gang activity.

Jon Lourie asked if there have been any incidents of crowd control in downtown Silver Spring in the area of Ellsworth in the evenings or this past month.

Lt. Burnett responded that probably every Friday and Saturday night we arrest somebody on Ellsworth Drive. The movies let out and you have a huge amount of people coming out and people just acting disorderly. The Police will not tolerate cursing and disorderly behavior. We want this entire area to be a place for families to come and when people act in a manner that is not appropriate we give warnings but if they do not obey the warnings we make an arrest.

Jon Lourie asked if Lt. Burnett thought they had adequate staffing for that area at night.

Lt. Burnett responded that on the weekends we have additional detail in that area but we could always use more. We have discussed other things we can do to increase patrol in downtown Silver Spring area.

Bob Middleton stated that Lt. Burnett mention that so far this month we only had three burglaries in the garages do you recall what the figure was for the month of January

Lt. Burnett responded that in January we had 37 and for the month of February we have a total of 6. The culprits who tore up our garages are in jail in Virginia as far as I know.

Bob Middleton reiterated that he appreciated the job the Police are doing in downtown Silver Spring. My question is do you attribute that decline from 30 plus to 6 as of the 21st February to these two or three guys.

Lt. Burnett responded that they do contribute a lot of it to them and the other part is what we have done with our garage detail by assigning them to specific garages so it is a little of both that the Police are spending more time in the garages and those people are locked-up. They come in bunches and hit five or 6 cars at a time and we have been fortunate but I can not guarantee that I won't come back at the end of the month and the numbers are higher.

Bob Middleton asked is it reasonable to assume that we really do have a problem with auto theft in downtown Silver Spring.

Lt. Burnett responded that we do not have a big problem with the whole vehicle being taken we have problems with property from the vehicle being taken. One way to stop this is that citizens understand that they should not leave items in their vehicles.

Bob Middleton responded that he understood and wanted to clarify that we were not talking about entire vehicles being taken.

Susan Hoffmann asked Lt. Burnett about the young lady that was beaten up in the garage and broke her nose are they the men arrested in Virginia or is that someone else.

Lt. Burnett stated that this was a different group and they have been arrested.

Pete Esker asked if the Majestic Theater still hire off-duty Police Officers and are there any other businesses with this program.

Lt. Burnett responded not in downtown Silver Spring that he is aware of but The Majestic does hire off-duty police officers.

Rick Siebert stated that he supports everything that Lt. Burnett has said. We really appreciate the good work that the Police Department has done in working with DPWT in the garages but our experiences are that it is a very difficult problem to deal with two people can literally be a real problem in not just breaking in the vehicles but next month it could be stolen vehicles. A lot of our garages are not staffed because it is relatively easy for someone very quickly to ride the metro to Silver Spring walk to garage steal a vehicle and continuously do it the next day and the day after.

Lt. Burnett stated they arrested a young man riding a bicycle with a back pack on. When we stopped him he had the copper fire hydrant plates in his back pack and this is a way to create revenue.

### **Farmers Market**

Susan Hoffman reported that

- Farmers Market, representative Jana Hawley will attend the March, Silver Spring Urban District Advisory Committee meeting and give an update. The Farmers Market is looking at opening in April instead of May and going into November.

### **Parking Update**

Rick Siebert reported that:

- The handout outlines what parking management is, why we have a Parking Lot District (PLD), and what is accomplished by having one. In Silver Spring we do a six year cash flow with every budget. This year it showed the FY07 actual expenses and revenues. FY08 our current years estimated revenues and our appropriated expenses and for FY09 it's the budget submission with our estimated revenues and what funding we are requesting and goes out from there five more years into the future. It is the budget year asking about plus five more. This includes all personnel cost, maintenance, enforcement officer's payment and everything we do that are actual operating expenses. It also includes all the transfers that PLD makes to other funds, the Urban

District being a major one and it shows our capital program expenses as projected for that six year period and all of our revenue, which are our tax revenue, fee expectation and fine expectations.

Gary Stith stated that 2/3 of the Urban District budget comes from the PLD.

- Silver Spring outlook in terms of its fiscal viability is improving for two major reasons. One economically the Central Business District, (CBD) is becoming much more robust, more businesses and more people coming in to park. The other positive in Silver Spring is that we have a lot of parking spaces and currently a lot of them are unused but as the economic goes up in Silver Spring we have the capacity right now to find places for people to park. This does vary by area. South Silver Spring is probably one of the weakest areas in terms of our ability to meet demand hopefully Lot 16 development is going to help that to some degree. The Fenton Street Village area again does not have the economic resurgence we have seen so there is not the demand but we are looking at a possible joint development on our current surface lot in the middle of the area that could be a residential, office building, retail mix use development that would really get that area going.
- We need to start planning to get on a better footing in the future as these two things move forward. Bethesda did this five years ago in 2001 they did a significant rate increase which has put them at a positive place in terms of reserves of revenue that they are carrying right now which for instance is allowing that huge development on Lot 31 that is being planned across from the bookstore in the southern end of town. Silver Spring needs to get to the same place and I don't think this can happen with our current rate structure. We are proposing a rate increase to start next July with the beginning of the fiscal year and going to the same fee structure as Bethesda and we are not proposing any change in the hours of collection they will remain exactly the same so the issue of our inability to change the hours of collection in the Wayne Avenue and Town Square garages but changing it in the rest of the CBD and its unfair discriminatory effects we recognize so our plan is to raise rate for everybody which will include those two garages which will give a level playing field to all the businesses in the CBD but at the same time give us the capacity for the next four or five years to get on a lot better fiscal footing. We plan to go to 75 cents per hour for the first three hours and 50 cent per hour thereafter and this is the same rates as in Bethesda.
- We have looked around at what other local municipalities have and trying to get a comparison more nationwide and what we picked was municipalities with populations of 500,000 to 1 million as our comparison group. If you look at the chart distributed the yellow line going across some of them show the average for all of the folks charted there. Virtually everyone in this area is charging \$1.00 dollar an hour for parking so the proposed increase we are suggesting is very much in line with this and continues to allow us hopefully to be below market.

### **Discussion:**

Pete Esker asked what the change was in Wheaton.

Rick Siebert stated he attended a budget meeting with the Director, OMB and the Department has not submitted a rate increase for Wheaton because of their own individual fiscal issues suggested that we may want to do one for Wheaton and he asked for some projections. I don't know if he plans to put that forward to the Executive when they have their meeting on what the Executive wants to eventually

recommend in his budget to Council. Ultimately the budget is the County Executive's so what we are trying to do is talk with the local communities, find out what support there is, and if it does exist then hopefully its part of his recommended budget to Council to actually do that. Once Council gets it there will be the Public Hearings associated and ultimately their decision in terms of what they pass specifically parking rates are their responsibility and they do that separately by Resolution. Council has typically done this as part of looking at the whole annual budget process.

All of our monthly rates are on a month to month basis and the way the monthly rate is calculated is take the long term parking rate multiply it by 9 hours times 21 business days a month and that is how you come up with what the month rate is. If you look at the current rate of 45 cents an hour do the math you get the \$85.00 per month. The 50 cent rate will be the same as Bethesda and move the monthly to \$95.00 dollars per month.

Barbara Henry stated as a frame of reference it is \$18.00 per day to park downtown now which is about the lowest rate you can find.

Jon Lourie asked if you park a nine hour day in the lot now it is \$4.50 and it will become \$5.25 so this is an increase of 75 cent per day. On the Cameron Street garage when you switched over to the new collection system have you had enough time to evaluate how the revenue collection has been with that system verses the old.

Rick Siebert responded that there were some people adamantly against that change but it has had two very positive outcomes. It use to be when you went to that garage at 9:00 in the morning between 9:00 and 2:30 you could not find a parking space. This was particularly difficult given the doctors offices around it we constantly had complaints from elderly people in particular that could literally not find a place to park when showing up for a doctor appointment. By changing the way we are charging which essentially forces everyone that parks there to pay for there parking we now have fifty spaces in that garage empty every day all day. We have effectively created more parking supply without having to do a capital project and build more spaces. Revenue has actually gone up 17%. What was happening with a cashier system if you where a resident in the area you could essentially park in that garage and store your car there virtually free because all you had to do was exit the garage when the gates are up and if you exited when the gates where down all you paid for was whatever day that you parked that day so a lot of people that lived in the area that had private parking available did not use it because they did not want to pay the private parking company to use it in their own building so they would walk a block over and park for free in our garage and that went around with this new system and we are getting the revenue from the permits.

Pete Esker asked if in the projection they also included enforcement revenue or do you get enforcement revenue.

Rick Siebert responded that we get the revenue from fines, the tax revenue, fee revenue and fines revenue and I don't anticipate any different in fine revenue because of the change in parking rates. We have been paying more attention to enforcement but we have not put more dollars into it and we keep a record not only for the ticket collection purposes but for management of that officer we get a report on every ticket they wrote and we question officers when they are doing downtown area and they do one ticket every five minutes and then no tickets for two hours. We do not have any ticket quota and do not evaluate



officers based on how many tickets they write. There is no report received by me that said how many tickets one officer writes verse another and it's not tracked because I don't care but we do pay attention to the breaks and ask questions about exactly where the officer was.

We have a large investment in these individual parking meters in terms of a lot of dollars in these things and they will last probably the next twenty years, the maintenance is low and it is inexpensive to collect. What we are looking at probably for the next fiscal year rather than this one is trying to implement a pay by cell phone system that will allow us to continue using individual meters but give people the flexibility to pay by credit card using pay by cell phone so this is another year off but this is the solution I think which would be most effective.

We only have one cashier garage left in the Metropolitan Building in Bethesda. We do however have pay on foot garages which effectively act like cashier garages for this problem however the good news is that they are really big garages and so we just aren't dealing with the problem because there is so much space in them but we will have to deal with this sometime down the road if we start getting into the problem like we did on Cameron Street where people can't find a place to park because people are storing their vehicles. The solution might be that sometime in the future go to some overnight parking permit that might be required and this has been discussed with Gary.

Pete Esker stated that one of the best deals going is at parking lot 4 if you want to take the Greyhound just park on Friday morning pay 9 hours and you are good to go until Monday morning. The area is lit and guarded very well and it cost you three dollars and some cents.

Rick Siebert stated that they may need to go to some parking management on weekends as they have done in Bethesda a few years ago. We are going to have some difficulty with the fact that the MEDCO Bonds were set-up making those two very large garages free on weekends and this will continue another eight years.

Pete Esker asked if the Churches reimburse the County for the use of the garages on Sunday.

Rick Siebert stated parking is free on Saturday and Sunday to everyone.

Barbara Henry asked to the Committee to take a straw poll on how they felt about raising the parking rates and keeping the hours the same since we don't have a quorum to vote.

Pete Esker stated that he thought the public would buy this relatively insubstantial raise in rates but they will not buy changing the hours.

***All Committee members in attendance agreed on the proposed rate increase.***

#### **Gateway Georgia Avenue Revitalization Corp. Programs**

John Landis reported that:

- Thanks to the Urban District for their support for the event we have been having at gallery, opening of the new exhibit in February and we had red shirts in attendance and they escorted walked patrons to their cars. The events were well attended.

- We are operating under a grant from the County Executive and part of the grant is a workshop seminar program for small business leading into what's titled the Acorn Market which is to be held on Kennett Street and the projected date is in May 10<sup>th</sup> and we are not in competition with the Farmers Market but if we could get four or five farmers to do an organic section also with other vendors. Part of the agreement is to bring people through the workshop seminar program who are interested in begin in business and give them the market experience and hopefully get four participants to apply for business license in Silver Spring. We are funded for a single event and we have had a lot of interest from people in the neighborhood to try and make it a weekly event in some way.

Barbara Henry asked if they were going to close Kennett Street every week because this would be a problem for us.

John Landis responded that it is all up in the air and depends on funding and an agreement from people in the area. The people in the neighborhood are looking for some type of continuing event. We are looking to do something but are funded for this single event.

### **Marketing & Special Events**

Susan Hoffmann reported that:

- The report in the packet is from the January meeting so let me give you an update on a couple things so you will have a much more detailed report.
- Our most recent Grand Prix attracted many fewer people than the first year the participants were always fairly good in the 100 hundreds. But my responsibility is to create community activities, to build community, bring people to downtown Silver Spring and this event was not accomplishing this and it created a huge impact in a negative way on the community which we are willing to do such as the parade, Jazz Festival, etc., when it results in thousands of people coming to play, eat, spend and build community this was not the case and this last event this summer was very disappointing and in combination with the fact I had to find a quick cut in my budget and it was a very large expenditure for police overtime so the decision was made to not have the Grand Prix.
- We met with Barry Soorenko from the arts alley and he is very interested in attempting to build community activity there. I am very supportive of the idea and want to help but I do not have budget for it so we have worked out a couple of things we might be able to do to help them in support essentially an in-kind support so we will be finding ways to do that without expenditure of budget bringing artist in that are willing to open up their guitar case and play and if this is done on a regular and people can look forward to this would be a useful activity as well.
- Had a great meeting today with folks from Liz Lerman Dance Exchange and they are very interested in doing something in Silver Spring on a regular basis particularly at the Round House Theatre so this is very preliminary and we at the Regional Center want to support them on this and work with Round House Theatre to help make this happen.
- We are in conversation with the Thelonius Monk Institute to work with us to build a program because this is the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Jazz Festival we want to do something to benefit the musician and people in the music industry that are still suffering from the affects of Hurricane Katrina and New Orleans is not fixed. We need to bring in a headliner for the festival.

## **Urban District Report**

Gary Stith reported that:

- Based on the current budget situation there are likely to be some cuts in our budget and I can not be specific until we meet with the County Executive and he decides whether he wants to accept the cuts we are recommending but we are trying to propose cuts that we think have the least impact and kind of spreading them around so we are not eliminated a whole program that we do. We will make the presentation to you at your March meeting because the County Executive sends his budget over to Council on March 17. We have tried to stay away from staff reductions and something we have done with contractors we may do with in-house staff.
- County Council will have their hearings on the Operating Budget the first week of April so at the Committees March meeting you may decide what you want to do in terms of testifying before Council about support of things that are in the County Executive Budget or express concerns about items not in the County Executive so this will be on the March agenda. This will be a very difficult budget year.

## **Updates**

Gary Stith reported that:

- The bid for the Civic Building is on the street and we hoped that the bids would be in by now. There were several questions that came up from the contractors asking for more details of technical matters and to give them the ability to respond to the bidding request we provided the information to the contractors. There are a number of contractors that have expressed interest and we feel there will be a lot of good competition but bids will come in on February 28<sup>th</sup> and we will inform you how this goes.
- This is being done through an RFP because the County is changing the way these things are done because they have had difficulty with other County projects recently going with a low bid process. They hope to have the contracts in place and that construction actually starts late May early June and 14 months construction time.
- Transit Center project is on the street for bids and is a much bigger project so the bidding time is longer but they still are anticipating the construction of this starting in late June.
- There is a lot of activity in construction in downtown. Work is being done across the street from Discovery, the work being done at the Performing Arts Center at the college at the corner of Burlington and Georgia and is quite impressive and will create activity through the performing arts. The college has also gotten funding to do design on a new parking garage that would be between the old railroad tracks and the old Giant Bakery to provide parking for people to use and they think it will be done before the Performing Arts Center opens.
- There is also all the residential development being done at the Portico project, a project on Cameron, United Therapeutics Phase II project and all the residential going on down at East West Highway. There are over 1325 units in construction in downtown. The Parking Lot District is negotiating with Bob Hillerson on the project on Lot 3 in Fenton Village. The Hook and Ladder Fire House contacted Susan Hoffmann and asked that their grand opening on October 25 be put on our website and the cuisine is American.

## **New Businesses coming to Silver Spring**

- Fractured Prune Donut Shoppe, will be located where Motto Photo used to be.
- New York and Company will be located at Georgia Avenue and Ellsworth.

Barbara Henry stated that the Chamber, Discovery and the Regional Center and other voices in this community have been working the past 2 1/2 year to impress upon Park and Planning particularly and the development community the importance of bringing retail here. There are some real limitations around this some pre-existing, some in zoning but this has been at least a 2 ½ year effort and it is starting to pay off.

Rick Siebert stated that they were going to close the garage next to United Therapeutics starting about next September for about 14 months. We are trying to make sure that we get it re-opened and completely refurbished in time for United Therapeutics opening of Phase II of their building. The Hilton is aware that we are closing the garage.

Jon Lourie asked what the status was and had Rick Siebert completed construction documents for this work and has it been bid.

Rick Siebert stated that they can not advertise it until they get funding and that won't be until July 1 so we are trying to have all the documents ready to advertise on July 1.

Jon Lourie asked if the Committee could be updated on the design.

Rick Siebert stated yes

Gary Stith stated that the Executive is concerned about the deferral of making a decision in the PHED Committee about the \$2 million dollar funding and if you have any influence on anybody at Council it would be helpful. The concern is that the State is going to be fixed with their budget work by April and the County budget does not get adopted until May and if there is any indication that County may not be putting up it's 2 million dollars there may be people at the State level that might want to recapture their 2 million dollars so we are a little concern that we do not send the wrong message to the State. PHED did defer it and they wanted us to come back and give more information.

Barbara Henry emphasized that if this deal does not get done, nothing will get done and how that has looked for 21 years is how it will look for the at least the next 10 years.

Susan Hoffmann stated that with the Capital Budget not only can the legislature take the money out they can put it some place else.

***Meeting adjourned 5:10 p.m.***

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